

The Icelandic Canadian

A quarterly published by The Journal Club, Windsor, Man. Vol. 16

Vol. 16

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The Icelandic Canadian

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The Icelandic Canadian

Vol. XVI No. 1

Winnipeg, Canada

Autumn 1957

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THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian Club, Winnipeg, Man.

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Subscription rates — \$1.50 per year, in Iceland 24 kr. Single Copies — 40 cents

Representative in Iceland — Frú Ólög Sigurðard., 26C Vesturgötu, Reykjavík, Sími 1812

Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

UNITY WITH FREEDOM

The Ninetieth Anniversary of Confederation

The first meeting of the Fathers of Confederation was held in the Council Chamber, now Federation Chamber, in the Legislative Building in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on September 1, 1864. The original building still houses the Legislative Assembly and Departments of Government but the old Council Chamber has been set aside as a historic site and museum, and the original table and chairs (re-upholstered) occupy the central part of the room. As one enters the chamber he sees a large bronze tablet on the opposite wall behind the table and chairs. The tablet was placed there on the fiftieth anniversary of that historic meeting and on the tablet, to the right, a herald is announcing to five statesmen from the provinces, on the left, the following propitious words which occupy the central part of the inscription on the tablet:

"Providence being their guide
They builded better than they knew."

On this the Ninetieth Anniversary of Confederation we do not find it difficult to agree that the Fathers of Confederation builded better than they knew, yes, better than what they could see in their fondest dreams. During the years, the facades of the structure we now call **Canada**, have taken form. In retrospect, we of this generation do not find it difficult to say that the architects of the intervening years have builded better than

they knew. And now as we ponder the expansion of this people, even before its growing pains have subsided, into a world nation playing an ever increasingly important role among the nations of the world in an era of uncertainties and dangerous conflicts, we begin to think that even today Canadians are building better than they know. If, therefore, it is beyond us to view in clear panorama what is unfolding should we not give added significance to the first line of the inscription: "Providence being their guide."

On this anniversary occasion it is well to examine the substance which has given shape to a structure grander and more noble than we had imagined, a structure which becomes the more inspiring and challenging as we, still somewhat faintly, see it unfold in its entirety and take its place in that loftier terrestrial Plan which Tennyson could see:

"I doubt not through the ages
one increasing purpose runs."

1. Canada is Bilingual

It is more than fortuitous that Canada is bilingual and has two official languages, English and French. The world has become very small: conflicts in one area reach out in their consequences across oceans and mountains; abiding victories in the cause of peace are shared by all mankind; reverses become the tragedies of all lands. At

world conclaves and international gatherings many tongues are spoken; international engagements writ in many languages.

It is good for us to be accustomed to hear words spoken that are not in our native Canadian tongue, be it English or French.

2. The Roots Lie Deep in British Soil.

When we analyze the type of democratic way which has evolved in Canada and weigh its virtues our minds invariably go back to Britain and her story. In frankness and with gratitude we acknowledge that many of the finest roots of the national organism which has flowered and born fruit in Canada lie deep in British soil.

Our parliamentary system; our happy blending of the written with the unwritten part of the constitution; the protection of our fundamental freedoms in the rule of law; our reverence of precedent and tradition, but only as a venerable background for peaceful and needed change: these virtues of the democratic way were nurtured in Britain, brought to Canada and have become deeply ingrained into our system of conducting the affairs of a rapidly growing and expanding nation.

3. The United States: a protection or danger?

Science has conquered distances, hurdled glaciers and mountain peaks, overcome rigors of climate. Polar ice-covered lands and seas can now be crossed in a few hours. We know that if there is another world war an attack will be made across the Arctic either directly on Canada, or, via Canada, on the United States. And we know where the enemy aircraft will come from, aircraft laden with nuclear

bombs, manned or robot. There will be no warning.

In the world of today it is fortunate that Canada lies in the lee of the United States, the most powerful democratic country in the world. Canada and the United States have entered into a solemn engagement to come to each other's defences but even without a formal commitment it would be in the interest of each and for self-preservation to do so.

There are some who see a danger to Canada, a nation of about sixteen million people, in bordering upon a nation more than ten times its size in population. They look upon the United States as a threatening colossus which may engulf us, or more dangerous still, as a people whose way of life is slowly but inexorably penetrating into ours so that in course of time Canada will be independent in name only. But those fears are groundless. Canada is too strong, its material substance expanding too rapidly, its national personality developing too clearly a mould of its own, to become absorbed by any nation no matter how large or powerful. Besides, the United States would not want to reach aggressively into Canada and prefers to have Canada as a friendly neighbor. Each in fact is an asset to the other; in mutual trust and with mutual defences each can proceed with its own program of nation building.

4. The Commonwealth of Nations

Canada is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Commonwealth is a unique evolution in the story of international relationships. So also are the meetings of the Prime Ministers. Through the colonial expansion program of Great Britain, the British Empire came

into existence and in 1887 a Conference was held of the "Colonial Premiers." The next Conference, held in 1897, was called an "Imperial Conference."

At an Imperial Conference in 1926 the "Overseas Dominions" became autonomous and the name was changed to "The British Commonwealth of Nations." The Crown became the symbol of unity and the member nations were bound together by a "common allegiance to the Crown." The word "Imperial" as applied to the Conferences was dropped.

In 1947 India and Pakistan acquired self-government, followed by Ceylon in 1948. These self-governing nations did not feel bound by "Allegiance to the Crown", and they preferred that the word "British" be deleted so "The Commonwealth of Nations" came into being. But though these historic words were dropped the unifying element, that is, the fundamentals of the free way of life of which the Crown had been the symbol, and which the British people had done so much to establish and perpetuate, were retained.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, then Premier of Pakistan, described the relationship very well when he said:

"A Commonwealth of free nations who believe in the same way of life in the same type of democracy."

The Commonwealth of Nations has become a living pattern of the unity with freedom which must be the guiding principle in any world organization which can hope to be able to establish and maintain world peace. Canada is the second senior member of that Commonwealth.

5. Canada's Assets, Material and Human

It has become platitudinous to refer to Canada's illimitable natural re-

sources. There is iron ore at Steep Rock, in Labrador and in Northern Quebec; new discoveries of nickel in the Mystery-Moak Lakes area in Northern Manitoba and east of the Hudson Bay close to the Arctic coast; uranium in the Blind River district in Ontario, in Saskatchewan and in the Northwest Territories; oil and gas in Alberta stretching east as far as Manitoba — all in huge quantities and a vital need in this period of challenge to the free nations of the world. There is the rich surface soil; vast stretches of forest reach up the mountain sides and down to the barren north; the nearby oceans and inland seas are teeming with fish.

But Canada's greatest asset is her people. There are two dominant strains, the British and the French, but mingled with them are people who have been referred to as the "third dimension", in numbers close to a quarter of the population. They are people who trace their ancestry to almost every country in the world or who have come directly from those countries. Here in Canada a nation young and virile, weaves into the fabric of its nationhood strands of many hues and colors. Even before the final pattern has taken shape many distinctly Canadian characteristics can be discerned.

Facades of the Canadian Structure

These are the facades of the structure we call Canada. As we view them, still not the finished product, we do not find it difficult to apply to ourselves what was said of the Fathers of Confederation: We are building better than we know. So we come back to the first line of the inscription and say of the people of Canada: "Providence is their Guide."

The acceptance of that guidance be-

comes the better revealed when we reflect upon what has been accomplished and visualize what lies ahead. In deeds at home and abroad can be seen the attitude of the Canadian people to the material wealth bestowed upon them, towards the inheritance of democratic values, the heritage of qualities of mind drawn from a multitude of ethnic sources as well as from the two main stocks — all placed in a geographic setting, dangerous yet challenging. In its totality there appears to be the fulfilling

of a purpose — something predestined from the beyond.

On this the Ninetieth Anniversary of the founding of Canada we can but dedicate ourselves to that purpose. We repeat, as the voice of Canada, the inspired, the prophetic words of Robert Browning:

"I go to prove my soul;

I see my way as birds their trackless way.

I shall arrive! What time, what circuit first,

I know not."

—W. J. Lindal



The Canada Council

The Editorial Board hoped to be able to make some announcement in regards to ways and means whereby Icelandic Canadians could, in conjunction with their own projects, cooperate in the plans outlined in the Act of Incorporation of the Canada Council. At this time all that can be said is to remind people of the announcement made by the chairman of the Canada Council, Hon. Brooke Claxton on August 21, which in part reads as follows:

"The scholarships to be paid out of the council's expected \$2,500,000-a-year revenue, may total about \$800,000 annually. They will range from \$300 to \$5,000 and will be granted only to those doing work in the field of arts, humanities and sciences

"Scholarships or fellowships for secondary school teachers, averaging \$2,000 and travel allowance tenable for one year. . . .

"Fellowships averaging \$2,000 for arts teachers tenable for one year in Canada or elsewhere. . . .

"Fellowships for \$5,000 and travel expenses for senior foreign fellows to study in Canada. The grant is to be \$2,000 for younger scholars, or workers showing exceptional promise. . .

"Fellowships averaging \$3,000 for journalists, broadcasters and others. Recipients must be experienced in creative and interpretive work . . .

"The Council also decided to provide aid for special projects and publish special works . . .

"A number of distinguished foreign lecturers are to be brought to Canada

This is a wide and flexible program for grants-in-aid and the reader is asked to ponder same pending future developments and announcements.



It came stealing toward us on silent ethereal feet. At first it was but a wisp of gossamer, curling along the water of the bay. On it came, mysteriously enshrouding the scene. The lush green mountains, the deep blue sky, the even bluer mirror-still water of the ocean quickly became veiled and indistinct and then disappeared from sight. The sunlight faded into an unearthly pink, which very soon gave way to a soft grey which enveloped the ship and enfolded us in a still, calm embrace of fog at sea. Were we suddenly being transplanted into a silent dream world? No, we were aboard the steamer Esja, on its way from Reykjavik to Akureyri.

It was a warm, soft evening last summer. As we rode on into the fog, a contemplative mood took possession of me. It seemed almost a dream, but here was I, a Canadian from the prairies of Manitoba, riding out a fog in the bay of Borgarfjörður on the east coast of Iceland. Then, suddenly, silence deepened. The throb of the engines had ceased. Something had gone amiss, and we had to lie at

ICELAND

by INGIBJÖRG S. BJARNASON

anchor until the necessary repairs were made.

There was nothing to do but wait. Staring out the window into the dense white shroud, I gave way to retrospect; scenes from my lovely holiday, flashed before my mind's eye. The long flight across the Atlantic, my first view of Reykjavik as we alighted at midnight in the soft afterglow. The sun had set, but an hour or so later it arose again. What better introduction to Iceland could here be, than to see it bathed in the mystic light of a mid-summer night. The surrounding hills seemed carpeted in lush velvet of innumerable hues, green, brown, mauve, and grey, many of them wearing a crown of white. To the west snow mantled Snæfellsjökull, was faintly visible.

Could it be true! Was I really in Iceland! Since I can remember, one of my strongest desires has been to visit the land of my forefathers. And now my dream had come true. Modern transportation had whisked me over the Atlantic in about as many days as it had taken months for my father to cross it.

I felt completely at home. For had I not heard about this country times without number. Was this not the land from whence I had sprung. Iceland is like a well loved grandmother hitherto unseen, who graciously and

affectionately welcomes her "ain folk" back from across the seas.

My stay in Iceland was limited so I deemed it best to see as much of the country as possible, on this, my first visit. I, therefore secured passage on Esja, which was leaving on a regular trip around the south and east coast from Reykjavik to Akureyri. My first sight of the Atlantic was from Iceland, for what can one see of the ocean at seventeen thousand feet up!

The steamer was to leave at mid-night on Saturday. By this time, I was getting a bit more accustomed to left-hand driving—but I was very glad to alight unscathed, from the taxi at the dock. A soft misty rain was falling. After bidding adieu to my uncle I boarded the ship. There I found myself a comfortable niche from where I could watch the preparations for departure. Judging from the number of persons present and from the brightness, one would think it a rainy noon rather than a rainy mid-night. Cargo was being loaded; lumber, farm machinery, provisions and wares of all descriptions, were put into the hold. When the hatch was battened down, more lumber was swung on deck, then followed a jeep, a passenger car and lastly a station wagon, all lifted by a huge crane, and deposited gently and precisely in place. And everywhere only Icelandic was spoken by all the hands. Despite the amount of work to be done, there was no feeling of hurry or urgency. One almost felt them saying "There is lots of time". No one hustled about, all went on smoothly and by one o'clock we drew slowly away from land and headed out to the open sea.

Some hours later. I was wakened by the pitch and toss of the ship. After what seemed an interminable time of this rough sea, I began to question

the wisdom of a sea voyage! At the same time I thanked God for modern medical science, which furnished me with insurance against the dreaded "mal de mare". By noon on Sunday we had reached Westmann Islands and I was assured that the worst was over as regarded rough sailing. However, this proved erroneous, for as we rounded the Ristangi peninsula and entered the Arctic Circle we spent two hours of heavy rolling. This began while we were still at dinner. After considerable difficulty, I reached the lounge, found a large arm chair, where I just sat. Walking was next to impossible. This, too, passed. With these two exceptions the voyage was very smooth.

That Sunday was a day to remember. I was fascinated by the scenery! The sunlight danced on the calm sea, birds circled the ship continually, and to the north was the coast where mountains of all colours and hues seemingly covered with plush, pointed up to the cloudless sky. We even saw waterfalls, shimmering curtains of water that churned and tumbled as they travelled down to meet the ocean. Most spectacular was beautiful Skogarfoss.

Towards evening we noticed a large snow-capped mountain to the northeast. These proved to be Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Iceland. Bathed in the rosy light of the slanting sun it was a memorable sight indeed. It is difficult for me, to decide which made the deepest impression on me, the ocean in its changing moods, the mountains in their ever changing colors, the waterfalls singing often roaring in their urgency to get to mother ocean or the lichen covered lava formations in Snæfellsnessysla. Together they made beauty, beauty that is Iceland.

A flat rock formation to the east silhouetted against the blue-mauve

evening sky, attracted my attention. This was the promontory known as Ingólfs höfði, the place where Ingólfur Arnarson, one of the discoverers of Iceland landed in the ninth century. It is said that the sight of the glacier Vatnajökull may have been the reason this land bears its misnomer—Iceland. According to tradition Ingólfur, on nearing land threw overboard, his high seat pillar, vowing to locate where it came ashore. However he landed without finding his pillar. It had drifted to Reykjavik whither he went the following spring.

Shortly before noon Monday we reached Reyðarfjörður a delightful village, where we lay at anchor until early evening. The sun was shining, the water glistening, the mountains which encircled the fjord were clad in green velvet and topped with a mantle of snow. Such peace and quiet! Only the hum of the engines deep in the bowels of the ship, could be heard. Cargo was being unloaded with a minimum of noise and confusion and utterly without haste. Here, as well as at the ensuing stops, I went on land and explored as much as was possible.

The beauty of the sky and sea when the ship drew away from the bridge at Eskifjörður later that evening, was such that one could feel the presence of God. The color and the majesty of the scene will long live in my memory. There is something about the calm sea, the ring of pale violet-grey mountains, the darker brown tones of the taller ones, the moon rising and tracing a path of silver along the water, while the afterglow lingers in the west, which fills one with a deep sense of reverence and peace.

The following day we docked at Seyðisfjörður for several hours. Here again was serene grandeur of sea, sky

and mountains, combined with such wealth of color, a warm vibrant velvet green. High up in the mountain there was a small but beautiful waterfall which hurried down singing and dancing in the sunlight. I climbed as close to it as I could, close enough to listen to its music, played by the Master Musician, a true symphony of sound. This village is built around the upper end of the fjord. It is interesting to stand on one shore and to see the opposite one, with its church, homes and mountains perfectly mirrored in the still water. Down by the dock, the scene changed to one of activity. The herring catch that summer had been excellent, and here, as elsewhere in the fishing centres, all were extremely busy working at this lucrative industry. But, as everywhere in Iceland, there was little evidence of haste or excitement although everyone was hard at work. About seven o'clock we sailed out of Seyðisfjörður north to Borgarfjörður where we now lay at anchor.

Then rousing from my reverie I noticed the color of the light was changing, from a grey-white, to a faint yellow and then to a rosy pink. The fog was beginning to lift. I hurried out on deck to watch it dispel. It fascinated me to see the veil lifting and the fog rolling away. At first only a few feet of the ocean could be seen and then more and more, until the distant shore line was visible. What a sight greeted my eyes! A breathtakingly beautiful circle of mountains stood majestically on guard over this fjord. This is the mountain range one of Iceland's foremost painters, Kjarval, has painted over and over again. As I stood there rapt in admiration, the fog was fast disappearing. Suddenly the setting sun shone through the last wisps of mist. Never can I forget the glory of that scene! The mountain

tops seemed to burst into flame. The hand of God lifted for one brief moment, the veil, and showed us beauty such as can hardly be of this world, the darkening sea, calm and peaceful, the shadowy mountain sides leading up to the golden summits pointing upward to the indescribable

beauty that is God.

Slowly the sun sank, the colors faded, leaving in this awestruck beholder a profound sense of the presence of the Omnipotent. Surely God walked by that evening on the coast of Iceland.

Dr. R. E. Helgason Wins General Practitioners Award



Jonas Helgason, pioneers of the Argyle District in Manitoba. He graduated in Arts from the University of Saskatchewan in 1941 and in 1945 obtained his M.D. degree from the University of Manitoba. He served for a year in the R.C.A.M.C. and in 1946 commenced a general practice in Glenboro.

In 1954 Dr. Helgason took a post-graduate course in medicine in Minneapolis and the following year a course in surgery at Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

Dr. Helgason or "Bob" as he is often called in his home district has taken an active part in community work and is a past president of the Glenboro Chamber of Commerce. He married Margaret Johnson of the Grond district south of Glenboro and they have three children, Roger, Susan and Cathryn.

In February last the Manitoba Institute for Advancement of Medical Study and Research awarded a "General Practitioners" Award of \$400.00 to Dr. Robert E. Helgason. The scholarship or award was made available by the Winnipeg Clinic Research Institute.

These Practitioners' Awards are presented to medical men in general practice for further studies in subjects of their own choosing. Dr. Helgason used the scholarship to take a post-graduate course in obstetrics at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Ill.

Dr. Helgason is a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Helgason of D'Arcy, Sask., and grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs.

Winnipeg Icelandic Newspapers in June editions noted that Dr. Stefán Einarsson, professor at John Hopkins University at Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. recently celebrated his 60th birthday.

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

Gimli, August 5, 1957

by STEFAN HANSEN



The forces which moved a few Norsemen to settle in Iceland were quite unlike the forces which 1000 years later led some of their descendants to leave Iceland for Canada. The Noremen forsook affluence for privation in search of freedom and escape from arbitrary rule by force. Their descendants, who came to Canada in search of greater economic opportunity, sought no escape from tyranny. On the contrary, they left a land that could rightly boast of the longest tradition on earth of individual freedom under parliamentary government. But they left this tradition not without concern. So sure was their appreciation of its blessings that they sought in various ways to assure its continuation in the new land. The descendants of these Norsemen who sought freedom in Iceland have contributed much

to practical application of the rule of law and to the concept of freedom of the individual. From this flows a characteristic which distinguishes Icelanders as a people. It is the universality of their love of intellectual activity—reading, writing, debating, theorizing. Iceland must surely have per capita more poets than any other nation on earth and according to some non-Icelandic scholars has produced in Steph-an G. Stephansson one of the greatest lyric poets of all time. If this intellectual activity is not all marked with great learning—for which, for the most part, opportunities were severely limited—it is indeed marked with one fundamental attribute. “Freedom of thought”—is accepted by all Icelanders as an inalienable right and is freely used by most of them.

Today it is my privilege to offer on behalf of Canadians of Icelandic descent a Toast to Canada. How shall we toast Canada?—this promising new land first discovered by an Icelander; this great land whose first white son, Snorri Thorfinnsson, was an Icelander. Shall our toast be only an expression of praise and gratitude? This it should be in full measure—but I think also more than this. It is this something more that interests me and I hope you.

The recent establishment of the Canada Council crystallizes into organized effort long and much loose discussion about our need of a distinctive Canadian culture. Distinctive in what way? Do we mean a homogeneous culture which in some manner

differs from what are conceived to be the characteristics of other homogeneous cultures—French, British, American, Chinese? Or might it be distinctive precisely because it is not homogeneous—but instead heterogeneous, more varied and versatile than other national cultures? Is this practical possibility for variation not what “distinctive” might mean with reference to culture in Canada?

In any case the many minority ethnic groups in Canada have now before them the fact of a Canada Council—with whatever benefit or harm to their aspirations it may bring. It will surely not leave them wholly unaffected. What hopes and what prospects have we?

If Canadians, as a nation, want to stimulate the development of a Canadian culture, then we have an interest and a responsibility to share in the development. We are no less Canadian for being of Icelandic descent, for Canada is a nation of immigrants and it was discovered first and peopled first by our ancestors. What is our interest and what our responsibility? Each one must judge for himself. Having the opportunity, I propose to inflict upon you one suggestion.

Celebrating new-found freedom for a nation originally born of search for freedom, Íslendingadagurinn is a peculiarly fitting day on which to re-appraise man's long struggle for liberty. How goes the battle? Where in it stand we—the traditionally freedom-loving descendants of a few Norsemen who would not bow to arbitrary power and who, even though they excelled in the general violence of the age, were the first to concede and to successfully establish individual liberty under parliamentary law? Do the heirs in Canada recognize this characteristic of their heritage? Do we

still cherish it enough to want to preserve it in the land to which we have come nine centuries after it was discovered by our ancestors?

Let me say that man's struggle for liberty goes not well in our age. Is this view more pessimistic than real? We may hope so, but not without genuine doubt and justifiable concern. The glimmering light of liberty was perceptible over vast areas of the globe in which in our lifetime it has been snuffed out like a candle. In our age we have witnessed the two most devastating and inhuman wars in all history. We live in daily fear of the horror of a third war which might destroy us all. We rub elbows with the most brutal tyrannies of all time. We did, and could do, little more than shrug our shoulders when a few months ago tyranny clawed to pieces the poverty-stricken, down-trodden and helpless Hungarians.

And while our eyes water at the sight of inhumanities committed in the name of the people against the people by the all-powerful State, we ourselves, albeit by a different route, move relentlessly toward an ever more powerful State. Are we really naive enough to even hope that our own State, possessed of equal power and charged with equal responsibility would not, and would not have to, maintain itself by like tyranny? We are mistaken to think that the tyrannies of Russia and China are a matter of men. They are not. They are the inevitable consequence of a philosophy of government which puts the abstract State before the individual. They are as essential to the preservation of the all-powerful State as they were throughout history to the all-powerful Ruler.

Today hundreds of millions of men have lost all practical hope of liberty.

Ours, here in Canada, is threatened. It stands in great and imminent danger from an external foe trapped in an evil tyranny which neither tyrants nor victims can shed but which both must know must go. But before it goes, it threatens to engulf the world in its own evil.

But our liberty is also in danger from an internal foe—the gradual erosion of individual freedom as the State day by day, almost imperceptibly but irresistibly, takes on more responsibility and more power. It is a fatal mistake to think that just because every now and then we elect a handful of men, it is safe to give them the tremendous power necessary to assume responsibility for total management of our society. It is equally a mistake to think that for the time being we can keep adding one small function after another and still stop somewhere short of complete control. Where will the adding stop? And who will stop it? Can we reasonably expect that our children, whom we bring up in an atmosphere of State expansion and whom we educate to acceptance of an ever more powerful State, will be sufficiently wiser than we to see the need and find a way to limit the power of the State?

Surely we have not already fallen victims of the illusion that "electing" those who wield it, will save us from the abuse of Absolute Power. An electoral system does not guarantee democracy. Russia has an electoral system. A technical democracy does not guarantee freedom. Russia calls her system a people's democracy. But it gives no freedom.

The great English liberals who wrote the American Constitution feared that in the end democracy would degenerate into the greatest tyranny of all. The great historian, Toynbee,

and other modern scholars bear witness that the process is actually under way. While Toynbee hopes that before it is complete the people will call a halt, he fears calling it to a stop may not be possible. Each generation can analyse the past to discover the ground that has been lost, but may fail to perceive what ground it is itself daily losing.

The London *Economist* recently observed that it might fall to the Scandinavians to make the most effective contribution to avert a third world war and destruction. If only there were enough Scandinavians to go round. The whole world recognizes with gratitude that Scandinavians have contributed to the work of the United Nations out of all proportion to their numbers and physical resources. Is it too much to hope that Canadians of Icelandic descent can gain the recognition of having contributed out of proportion to their numbers to avert our very real danger of creeping Statism which before our eyes is destroying such great nations as France and Britain?

Except for recent immigrants from behind the Iron Curtain, no group of people in Canada should be more conscious than we of the evil of too much power in the hands of government—no matter how that government is created. We, lovers of liberty and rovers of the world of thought, should know that the worst tyrants in history were indeed often chosen, in one fashion or another. Greek tyrants and Roman Emperors often were "chosen." Hitler was meticulously "legal" in his acquisition of absolute power. Was Khrushchev not elected after all? Can we not even imagine a dictatorship in France, of which there surely is great danger and perhaps dire need, being created with careful legality?

Have we the foresight to see our internal danger—if not in our time, then in the days of our children or their children? And if we do foresee it, have we the interest and the responsibility to offer resistance to these evil forces in our society? Can we earn in the struggle against this internal threat the reputation already won by the Scandinavians in the struggle against the external threat of war?

Perhaps it may one day be said of

Canadians of Icelandic descent that they contributed out of proportion to their numbers and their physical resources to the preservation in Canada of a free society in which the individual is not "cowed" by the power of the State. Such a contribution to Canadian culture ought to come naturally from Canadians descended from the little nation born of a challenge to arbitrary power and reared in a tradition of liberty.

THE COVER VERSE

The Cover Verse is a translation from the poetry of Unnur Benediktsdóttir Bjarklind, (1881–1946) who wrote under the pen name Hulda. She was born at Auðnir in North-Iceland, (Norðurlandi) the daughter of a farmer who later became Librarian at Húsavík in Þingeyjarsýsla. She, as many of her contemporaries, was educated at home. In 1905, she married Sigurður Bjarklind, a co-operative merchant in Húsavík.

Hulda was a profuse writer in both poetry and prose, but she became best

known for her lyric poetry which is characterized by that delicate depth of feeling, so well illustrated in the poem selected. Her last book of poems was called "**Þú hlustar, vör**" (You listen, Bay), 1933.

In addition to short stories, fairy tales and articles on various subjects Unnur wrote a two-volume novel "**Dalafólk**" (Valleyfolk).

The translator is the late Skuli Johnson, a truly Icelandic-Canadian man of letters.

AS FROM A FLOWER'S CHALICE

As from a flower's chalice
The dewdrops disappear,
So passed my sorrows from me
When days were young and dear.
A yearning now enthralls me
And nowise can be quelled;
'Tis like a secret fountain
The sun has ne'er beheld.

EINS OG ÚR BLÓMABIKAR

Eins og úr blómabikar
hið bláa daggatár
svo hurfu harmar mínir
um heiðrík bernsku ár.
En nú ei þrá mín þrýtur
í þrungnum hugarreit,
hún er sem byrður brunnur
sem birtu aldrei leit.

MISS ICELAND

in

Miss Universe Beauty Contest

by RHUNA EMERY



Bryndis Schram

Representing Iceland in this year's stormy Miss Universe Beauty Pageant held in Long Beach, California, was Bryndis Schram, an attractive 19-year old student from the University of Reykjavik with brown hair and hazel eyes, a warm quick smile that won her many friends and energy of the kind that must have spurred her Viking ancestors to explore the seas far beyond their tiny island.

At University, Bryndis is up to her pretty tonsils in languages. She is studying German, Swedish, French, English

and Latin. I found her English excellent. Latin, she told me, is one of her favorite subjects.

"It's a real challenge to translate Icelandic into Latin and vice versa. Maybe it fascinates me particularly because Icelandic is the root of the Scandinavian languages and Latin the root of the Latin languages," Miss Iceland informed me.

The Nordic lovely also studies ballet seriously. "I've studied four years in Iceland and a year in England and Denmark. Not long ago, I danced the lead in "The Merry Widow" in the National Theatre in Reykjavik," Bryndis told me enthusiastically.

But in case you are getting the impression that the pretty miss from near the Arctic does nothing but study, she also dances, swims and skis.

Her official hostess during the Pageant, Iceland-born Mrs. Sumi Swanson and one-time resident of Winnipeg and the Canadian prairies, informed me that she had quite a time keeping her charge dry. "Every spare minute Bryndis had, she would dive into the pool at the hotel where all 76 contestants in the Beauty Pageant were housed."

Unfortunately the Pageant this year ran into a record number of snags which must have strained international relations a little. The first girl, Miss Maryland, crowned Miss United States turned out to be married and there-

for not eligible to enter the contest. She was deposed and the crown of Miss U.S.A. placed on her runner-up, Miss Utah. Miss Universe herself, (Miss Peru) turned out to be a few months short of the minimum age of 18 required for the entry into the Pageant. However, after much deliberation, she was allowed to keep her crown. Co-sponsors of the event, Catalina Swimsuits, Max Factor of Hollywood and the City of Long Beach realize that their troubles could have been avoided by more careful screening of contestants and next year passports, birth certificates and affidavits as to marital status will be required. It appears that even young beautiful girls can't be relied on to tell the truth when the stakes are high.

I asked Miss Iceland to give me her impressions of America. "The scenery hasn't impressed me too much. I don't like most American movies. The girls use too much makeup to suit me," said Bryndis frankly "but the people—" here Bryndis hugged her pretty knees up to her slightly turned-up pretty nose "the people are the warmest, friendliest I have ever met." Last year I seem to recall Gudlaug Gudmundsdottir, Iceland's first entry in the famous world-wide beauty contest telling me the same thing.

What about marriage? To this question the hazel eyes danced: "I want to get married but not until I'm about 25. I want to do something significant on my own before settling down."

What would you like to tell the people of America about Iceland? To this Miss Iceland answered quickly: "It is not as cold as some may think. It's blustery and stormy at times but no colder than New York and not as cold as the Canadian prairies get." Miss Schram has relatives at Winnipeg Beach whom she has visited. "Also I'd like to tell them that Iceland is very modern and that we have a big building boom in progress just as there is here. We have no slums and no illiteracy." You could tell that Bryndis Schram is very proud of her little country and her ancestry. It showed too when she handed her souvenir gift to the Mayor of Long Beach, a book called "Fire on Hekla."

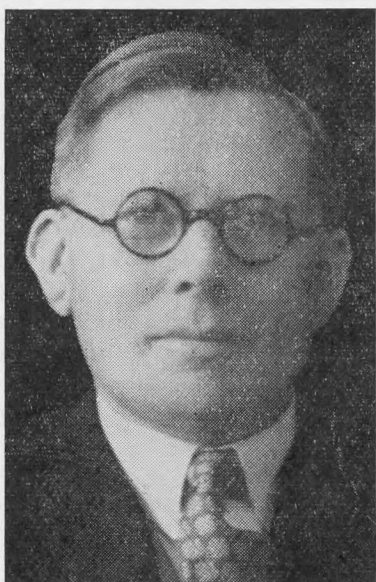
And Iceland can be proud of her. Her float won \$200 first prize offered by the Merchants of Long Beach for the "best decorated" float. Hers was sponsored by the Icelandic American Club of Los Angeles County and designed by Orn Hardarson, an Icelandic commercial art student in Los Angeles. Theme of the float was the "over 1000 years" of peace enjoyed by Iceland and the plying of the world's seas by the Vikings centuries ago.

Miss Iceland was guest of honor following the Pageant at a garden party given by the Icelandic American Club.

Rhuna Emery, Mrs. Charles E. Emery, of 5046 Elm Ave., Long Beach 5, California, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asmundur Loptson of Yorkton, Sask. Mundi is a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. —Ed.



A VISIT FROM THE BISHOP OF ICELAND



The Right Rev. Ásmundur Guðmundsson
Bishop of Iceland

Icelanders and their descendants and associates in North America were fortunate that the recent Lutheran World Federation Assembly was held in Minneapolis. This gave the representatives from Iceland at that international conclave an opportunity to visit in Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba.

The group consisted of The Right Reverend Dr. Ásmundur Guðmundsson, Bishop of Iceland; Archdeacon (prófastur) Friðrik A. Friðrikson of Húsavík and his wife Frú Gertrude; Rev. Benjamín Kristjánsson, Pastor, residing at Laugalandi and Principal of Laugalandi School; Rev. Pétur Sigurgeirsson, Pastor at Akureyri, and his wife Frú Solveig.

The initial welcome and reception

took place in Minneapolis under the auspices of the women's organization Hekla and on Tuesday August 27 the group of distinguished guests started on its six day visit in North Dakota and Manitoba. That evening a service was conducted in the Icelandic church at Gardar and at Mountain the following evening. The Bishop preached at both services. After each service light



Rev. Benjamín Kristjánsson

refreshments were served followed by a programme presided over by Rev. Ólafur Skúlason, Pastor of both congregations. Greetings were extended to the visiting dignitaries by Dr. Richard Beck, on behalf of the Icelandic National League, and by others. The four visitors replied.

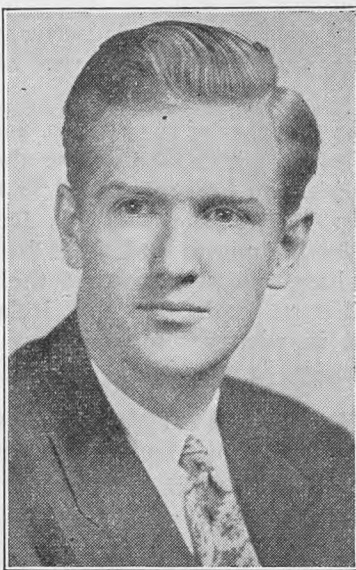
The Bishop and his entourage reached Winnipeg on Thursday afternoon



Archdeacon Friðrik A. Friðrikson

Dakota and Winnipeg, nor to the contents of the various addresses of greetings and replies. Suffice it to say that during the six day visit certain thoughts of deep significance came to the fore which may be regarded as the keynotes of this fortunate visit.

Consul Grettir Johannson pointed out that this visit was really a "coming home from their home", ("komnir að heiman heim") of the four church dignitaries all of whom had previously



Rev. Pétur Sigurgeirsson

and that evening The Icelandic Lutheran Synod and The Icelandic National League were hosts to the visitors at a banquet in the Royal Alexandra Hotel, presided over by the Rev. V. J. Eylands, D.D.

The dinner hour was followed by a programme of addresses of welcome and replies, interspersed with appropriate Icelandic songs and a piano selection by Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson. The greetings were extended by Grettir L. Johannson, the Icelandic consul, Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, President of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod, Rev. P. M. Petursson, Minister of the First Federated Church and Dr. Richard Beck, representing the Icelandic National League. The four visiting church leaders replied. At the close of the programme all present were presented to the Bishop.

Space does not permit even the briefest reference to the messages in the sermons delivered by the Bishop and the pastors during their visit in North

resided in North America for various lengths of time. Rev. Pétur Sigurgeirsson brought out very significantly that Iceland was more than an island in the northern seas, and that the Icelandic language and the cultural wealth to which it is a key, reached out beyond oceans to the enrichment of cultures in other lands. Rev. Benjamin Kristjánsson, both during the visit and at the Icelandic Celebration at Gimli, gave a realistic approach to this widening of outlook by urging people of Icelandic extraction in this land to be-

come co-workers in this mission by gathering and preserving manuscripts, books, and works of art and handicraft, of value as tangible evidence of Icelandic culture and thought. Arch-deacon Friðrik A. Friðriksson approached the same subject from a slightly different perspective, stating that he could visualize two homelands for people privileged to spend parts of their lives in two lands, the culture of which had something in common. With a degree of pride he stated that he felt that he had two homelands as he had resided in Canada twelve years, during an impressionable part of his life.

The thoughts of the visitors, and indeed of all who spoke during the six day visit, can be summarized in these words: The people who left Iceland for North America and their descendants have not disappeared; theirs is a different garb but the Icelandic spirit, in whatever form it may find expression, is of abiding strength.

The transcendent message came from the Bishop, both in the many sermons and in his remarks at the various social gatherings. The religious faith of the Icelandic people, coupled with their deep-rooted love of their language and literature, have, he declared, been the source of strength and comfort through the ages and an exhortation to reach even higher in their service as a nation here on earth. That was his interpretation of the remark so often made that "Guðrækni og þjóðrækni", religion and love of country, go hand in hand. (A striking parallel in thinking is to be found in a series of articles on the editorial page of The Winnipeg Free Press by Thomas Saunders, a well known Winnipeg man of letters. The series is entitled "Christianity and Democracy" and in

the concluding article Mr. Saunders makes this challenging statement: "If we lose one we lose both.")

Friday the Bishop and the visiting pastors were the luncheon guests of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod at which the Bishop presented the Synod with a photostatic copy, full size, of the oldest Icelandic Bible "Guðbrandar Bíblía", published in 1584. As a return gesture the Synod presented the Bishop with a fountain pen set.

On Saturday afternoon Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson drove the Bishop to the Betel Home for the Aged, in Gimli, accompanied by Rev. Eric Sigmar and Rev. Pétur Sigurgeirsson. Rev. Sigmar conducted a service in the Home; greetings were extended by Rev. Sigurgeirsson and the Bishop preached the sermon. That evening Rev. and Mrs. P. M. Petursson of Banning St. Winnipeg, were "At Home" to the Bishop and his group, a gathering crowded to the doors for over two hours as people streamed in and out to meet the distinguished visitors.

On Sunday morning, Sept 1, the Bishop attended service in St. Stephens Lutheran Church, of which Rev. Eric Sigmar is Pastor, and delivered a brief message. The service, in English, was delivered by Rev. Pétur Sigurgeirsson, son of the late Bishop of Iceland, Sigurgeir Sigurðsson. In the afternoon the Bishop preached in the Icelandic church in Selkirk.

The main service and gathering took place in the First Lutheran church on Sunday evening, under the auspices of the First Icelandic Lutheran and the First Federated church congregations. In the service the form of ritual in the State Church of Iceland was followed. The Ministers taking part in the service were Dr. V. J. Eylands, Rev. P. M. Petursson, Rev. E. H. Sig-

mar, and the Bishop, who preached his third sermon that day.

After the service those present, over three hundred in number, gathered in the lower church auditorium. After refreshments had been served the Pastor, Rev. Eylands, called on the President of the Icelandic Synod, Rev. Eric Sigmar, to preside. Greetings were extended on behalf of the City of Winnipeg by Alderman Paul Goodman and an appropriate gift presented to the Bishop. In addition to the visiting ministers and Rev. P. M. Petursson, who was jointly in charge of the church service with Dr. Eylands, Pastor

Ólafur Skúlason from North Dakota, and Rev. Albert Kristjánsson from Blaine, Wash., addressed the gathering. Both spoke in a humorous yet thought provoking vein. An ovation was given to the evangelical dean of the Icelandic Lutheran Church of North America, Rev. Rúnólfur Marteinsson, D.D.

In his farewell message The Right Rev. Dr. Ásmundur Guðmundsson once more stressed the abiding value of the spiritual bond of a common worship and the heritage of a common language and literature.

—W. J. Lindal

The New Secretary of State For External Affairs



Hon. Sidney E. Smith

External Affairs in the Diefenbaker Government.

Hon. Sidney E. Smith is well known throughout Canada and indeed in the United States as well. He is a graduate of both Harvard and Dalhousie University. In 1934, when only 37 years of age, Dr. Smith was appointed President of the University of Manitoba. He served that university with distinction for nine years and in 1943 accepted an offer from the University of Toronto to be its president, a position he held until he was invited to join the present Canadian Cabinet.

Hon. S. E. Smith, by reason of his academic training, many years of administrative university experience, and personal charm, will fill the onerous yet delicate duties of Secretary of State for Canada with honor and distinction to himself and the country he serves.

Few events could be mentioned which would have so generally pleased all Canadians no matter of what political leanings, as the announcement that Dr. Sidney E. Smith had been sworn in as Secretary of State for

B. E. Olson Assigned to an Important Post in the Far North



B. E. Olson

Members of The Icelandic Canadian Club were delighted when they heard that Bjorn Edvald Olson, the first president of the Club, had received a promotion to a very responsible position in the public service of Canada. Their rejoicing was shared by his many friends and indeed by his compatriots of Icelandic origin who are always gladdened when some of their number advances in service to their country, especially when it involves a measure of sacrifice.

On May 1., this year, Mr. Olson was appointed Superintendent of Wood Buffalo National Park in the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources with headquarters at Fort Smith in the North West Territories. Wood Buffalo Park covers some 17,300 square miles, an area larger than that of all the other National Parks of Canada combined. It is 130 miles wide and where it is longest it stretches 170 miles.

Edvald Olson, or Eddie, as he is commonly called, was born in Gimli Man., June 13, 1903, a son of the well known pioneers of the "New Iceland" settlement, the late Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Olson. He received his public school and high school education in Gimli then entered the University of Manitoba and in 1924 received the degree of Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture. During his undergraduate years, Eddie engaged in many extra-curricular activities. He was Class President, Chairman of the Social Committee and of the Athletic Committee. He played on the university football and basketball teams.

As a public speaker Edvald Olson is a "natural" and was again and again selected for the university teams. In those days he was equally eloquent in Icelandic and English, but because of lack of opportunities to speak in his parent tongue, his Icelandic has suffered somewhat but he still speaks the language very well.

Following graduation Mr. Olson was for seven years special factory representative of General Motors Corporation of Canada for all of Western Canada. During the depression of the early thirties he entered the service of the Government of Canada, at first with the Department of Agriculture in the Experimental Farm System, and later transferred to the Indian Affairs Branch in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, as superintendent of various Indian Agencies in

Manitoba and Ontario. A few years ago Mr. Olson was assigned to an administrative post at Indian Affairs Headquarters in Ottawa and served there until he was appointed to his present responsible position.

Now, Eddie, a son of people of the island of the midnight sun, finds himself living in "a land of the midnight sun in summers" and in winters enjoying the rigour of the sub-zero climate of the N.W.T. "tempered by chinooks from the Rocky Mountains."

The nature and extent of his new assignment are best related in his own words.

"The Park was established in 1922 by the Federal Government for the purpose of safeguarding the Wood Buffalo for posterity. Here roam approximately 15,000 bison living in their natural habitat, and we administer a program of buffalo management to assure the continuance of this native American specie—which was almost extinct at the beginning of this century. When one considers that buffaloes roamed this continent before the coming of the white man in numbers estimated to have been between 50,000,000 and 60,000,000 the importance of Wood Buffalo National Park, as a sanctuary for the vanishing species of native American wildlife, is meaningful and significant.

The Park is famous for the Wood Buffalo but is even better known because it contains the only known nesting ground of the whooping crane in Canada. This beautiful specie of American bird life is practically extinct—

only 31 birds are known to exist—and a real part of our work here is to so manage the area, where these few but wonderful birds nest, that their survival may be assured. The whooping crane resembles the swan, is snow white, excepting for black markings on the outer tips of its huge wings and black feet and face. The mature bird stands four feet high and has a wing spread of seven to eight feet.

Of course in addition to the foregoing the Park abounds in all forms and species of fine fur bearing animals and big game, moose, elk, deer and cariboo. There are all types of migratory birds, and adjacent to the Park is a wild goose sanctuary where Wild Life Service specialists, both Canadian and American, study their life habits."

It is difficult to refrain from giving expression to a regret that the Icelandic group in Canada is deprived of the valuable service Edvald Olson could render in their midst. But there is consolation in the knowledge that during the years he has served Canada well, has grown in stature and now holds a very responsible position in the conservation program of Canada.

Eddie Olson is married and he and his wife, Marge, will once in a while visit in the noise and bustle of metropolitan areas and describe wildlife to us at its best.

The staff of this magazine and their many friends and acquaintances wish Eddie success in his responsible work and extend congratulations to both of them. —W. J. L.

Sigrídur Anna Hall

Sigrídur Anna Hall came to Canada with her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hordal at 5 years of age.

As a young girl her voice showed definite promise. Fortunately that talent was recognized and developed as a Mezzo-Soprano by first class teachers. Indeed she studied with

Manitoba and all the Icelandic communities of Canada and the United States for her singing of Icelandic folk songs, and of those which were especially composed for her by her husband, who is recognized as a leading composer among our people.

Mrs. Hall had a charming stage



Sigrídur Anna Hall

competent instructors all her singing days from 1909 to 1934. She was foremost as the Soprano soloist of the First Lutheran church of which her husband S. K. Hall was organist and choir-master, and was also a valued participant in the musical activities of her city. She is best remembered in Win-

ipeg, a voice of rare vocal quality which she used with great skill to beautify and enhance the poetic text of her songs.

At 74 in 1954 Mrs. Hall died, mourned and remembered by a host of people whose hearts were touched by her art. —Paul Bardal

The Music Selection

There are two special features to the music selection this time. A picture of the woman who gave the inspiration to both the poem and the music composition appears on the opposite page with a few notes by a well known singer, Paul S. Bardal, who knew the late Sigridur Hall intimately and has the ability and musical training to judge her musical talent and artistry. The music composition was especially composed for The Icelandic Canadian.

The author of the poem, the late Dr. Sigurður Júlíus Jóhannesson, needs no introduction to readers of this magazine. The response in his heart, as he listened to Sigridur sing, so charmingly expressed in the poem, is but one illustration of the innermost feelings of this great humanitarian towards everything that is beautiful and good and ennobling in this world.

Steingrímur K. Hall, the composer, Bachelor of Music with highest honors from the Gustavus Adolphus Conservatory of Music, St. Peter, Minn., accepted a call from the First Lutheran Church of Winnipeg in 1905, where he was choirmaster seventeen years and organist for thirty years.

In 1928 Mr. Hall passed an examination in the method of teaching the Meissner System of class piano instruction for beginners and received a certificate by the Meissner Institute of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

S. K. Hall has published three volumes of songs with English translations:

- I. Icelandic Song Miniatures
- II. Songs of Iceland.
- III. Songs of the North.

Many of Mr. Halls compositions, solos, choruses and organ music have been repeatedly performed at concerts and over the radio by some of the leading artists both in Canada and the United States. His compositions have been favorably reviewed.

The Manitoba Free Press, Department of Musical Criticism, in a review of "Icelandic Song Miniatures", in 1924, made the following comment:

"Mr. S. K. Hall reveals a fine lyric sense and poetic fancy in his 'Icelandic Song Miniatures'. Anyone seeking them will find pages in which the inspiration rises to a point worthy of wide recognition."

The translator, Art Reykdal, son of Kristín and the late Paul Reykdal, was formerly a member of the staff of this magazine but had to resign when he accepted a position with the Atikokan Progress of Atikokan, in Ontario.

Art Reykdal was a great admirer and close friend of the late Dr. S. J. Jóhannesson. At this time it is appropriate that, in conjunction with the poem that is being published, the reader go back to the Summer 1956 issue of this magazine and read the touching poem by Art Reykdal called "Farewell to a Friend", composed upon the passing of Dr. Jóhannesson.

Þegar hún Sigríður söng

Moderato Sig. Júl. Jóhannesson WHEN SIGRÍÐUR SANG S. K. Hall

ó - m - fræ - - i ekk - ert eg skil það
 techn - ique - of mel - o - dy grand is

aldr ... ei eg hyl eða a dyl. Eg
 some ... thing I don't und - er stand. I

ÞEGAR HÚN SIGRÍÐUR SÖNG

Í ómfræði ekkert eg skil,
 það aldrei eg hyl eða dyl,
 eg hlusta með ótömdu eyra,
 en eitthvað mér fanst eg þó heyra
 þegar hún Sigríður söng.

Já, eitthvað, sem huga minn hreif,
 og hátt yfir dagþrasið sveif,
 og húngraða sálina saddi
 og samtímis hressti og gladdi
 þegar hún Sigríður söng.

Þá klökknuðu konur og menn,
 þær kveldstundir munum við enn,
 það var eins og lífstraumur liði
 um loftið með himneskum friði.
 þegar hún Sigríður söng.

Sig. Júl. Jóhannesson

hlust - a með ó - - tömd - - u eyr..... a. En
list - ened en - tranced at each meas..... ure. It

MF

cres.

eitt - hvað var fannst eg þó heyr..... a
stirred my whole be - ing with pleas..... ure

F *rit* *roll*

lento (p)

þeg - ar hún Sig - rið - ur söng.
Al - ways when Sig - rid - ur sang.

p *D. C.* *Time*

WHEN SIGRIDUR SANG

The technique of melody grand
Is something I don't understand.
I listened, entranced at each measure;
It thrilled my whole being with
pleasure
Always when Sigridur sang.

The troubles and strife of the day
Were speedily carried away.
A hunger within me was banished;
It thrilled me and weariness vanished
Always when Sigridur sang.

That moment, remembered for years,
Both women and men moved to tears.
It seemed that life's stream flowed
before us;

A heavenly peace settled o'er us
Always when Sigridur sang.

Translated by Art Reykdal

The Canada Council Can Learn a Lesson

Here is how a small country builds its culture. Some people say that taxes are too high but most Icelanders feel that they get their money's worth

by DONALD R. GORDON

Reykjavik, Iceland: There's no debate about any such organization as the Canada Council, not much political concern either, but the 165,000 people of this tiny country have solved the problem of the arts in a way that makes Canada's efforts look pretty weak.

Consider this record: A Nobel Prize-

and a surprising number of full-time poets, playwrights and sculptors.

It's not because of a protected market. Top-notch European performers and companies, such as the Moscow Ballet, are seen regularly before packed houses in the country, English-language books are available in profusion—often at lower prices than the local products



The first meeting of the Canada Council, formed with a \$100,000,000 budget to promote the arts humanities and social sciences by the late Liberal Government. Can Canada like Iceland keep it from political concern?

winning author, at least eight others of international rank; more than 60 successful and self-supporting publishing houses; a full-time professional National Theatre playing in Reykjavik and regularly invited to tour Scandinavia; a permanent symphony orchestra, at least 12 artists able to support themselves on local demand

—and conversation in Icelandic homes deals as much with the cultural contributions of Europe and North America as with domestic achievements.

Part of the credit goes to government policy. Roughly 30% of Iceland's annual budget is earmarked for education and cultural pursuits. Fledgling writers, for example, get grants rang-

ing from about \$50 to \$1,000 to allow them to travel, study or complete university education. The well-established ones get even bigger amounts, such as the \$2,000 a year allotment to Nobel Prize winner Halldor Laxness.

"I have been receiving a stipend from the Icelandic state for the last 25 years," Laxness said in an interview. "Most writers get grants as soon as they can supply some proof of professional intent, and of course, an indication of ability as well."

Similarly, funds are made available for artists, musicians and other creative craftsmen. And excellent facilities are provided, such as the new Icelandic National Theatre opened in 1950, and described as one of the best equipped in Northern Europe.

"We build and help as circumstances permit," explained Iceland's president Asgeir Asgeirsson. "With the theatre, for instance, we started work in the 1930's, stopped for a while when money ran short, and finally finished it in 1950. Some people say taxes are too high with this sort of assistance, but most Icelanders feel it is worth it."

That brings in the other important factor—tradition. Though it is no richer than that of Canada or the United States, the Icelanders take a far greater pride in their cultural heritage. One is constantly reminded of the link with the Vikings and Norsemen—a popular feature in many of the efforts by contemporary writers, poets and sculptors. In tradition, literature stretching back for some 1,000 years is stressed in schools, published in cheap well-designed books and made the subject of regular talks and plays over the Icelandic state radio.

"We were isolated for a long time," said Gunnar Schram, a journalist and historian. "This allowed the first roots of our culture to develop well. Then, with the various invasions and occupations, came the challenge to our survival as a race that kept the pride of culture alive and flourishing."

The nation's arts have been further helped by the fact that Iceland never has had a military tradition. Herdis Thorvaldsdóttir, one of the country's leading young actresses put it this way: "Without heroes of the army or navy, such as the British, French or Germans have, we have found our heroes in the arts. Children grow up wanting to be writers or actors instead of generals or fliers. Your Davy Crockett in North America was about as popular from what we hear, as our Halldor Laxness is here."

For a Canadian visiting Iceland, there is another surprising aspect: Many of the leading Canadian authors and playwrights are better known there than at home. For example, Bruce Hutchinson and Gabrielle Roy were the subjects of a recent leading article in the Reykjavik daily newspaper *Morgunbladid*.

"You in Canada are luckier than we in one sense," observed Baldur Georgs, a Reykjavik critic. "Most of your cultural growth seems to lie ahead of you—promising much good excitement in the years to come. We wish you good luck in your search."

The above article with heading and sub-heading, as above, appeared in *Saturday Night*, of Toronto, July 6, 1957. The Icelandic Canadian is grateful to the author, Donald R. Gordon, and to *Saturday Night* for giving permission, without charge, to reproduce the article. —Ed.

FJALLKONAN 1957



MRS. MARGRÉT HELGA SCRIBNER

Íslendingadagurinn at Gimli

The 68th annual celebration held by Icelandic people in Manitoba on the 5th of August this year was a happy one; the weather was perfect, not a threatening cloud in the sky, warm sunshine and a light breeze off the lake all day. It is estimated that about four thousand people converged on Gimli for the occasion. Most of the Icelandic communities in Manitoba were represented: Selkirk, Arborg, Riverton, Hecla, Lundar, Argyle—and hundreds from Winnipeg. But people had also come from afar: Washington, D.C., Illinois, North Dakota, Minnesota, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. The magnet that draws them in such great numbers every year is not only the wish to meet old friends but the deep-rooted desire to honor the memory of the Icelandic pioneers on this continent, and to keep alive Icelandic customs and traditions.

The festivities began with a parade led by the beautiful "Fjallkona", Mrs. Margaret Scribner and her attendants, Elaine Scribner and Marilyn Magnuson, in an open motor car escorted by the R.C.M.P. The floats and decorated cars were fewer than last year. This was disappointing, but the fine band of the Winnipeg Grenadiers more than made up for it; to the strains of its stirring music the people now began to flock into the Gimli park.

It was pleasant to watch the people as they entered the park with an air of expectancy, their warm smiles matching the shining day. There was many a joyous reunion and soon there were small groups seated at the tables under the trees, some having their lunches, others just visiting.

From the other end of the park were heard the happy shouts of young people. The younger generation was engaged in racing and other sports activities. Skuli Hanson, donor of the Hanson Trophy, presented the cup to the winner, Norman Ebourne of Winnipeg. The Winnipeg team also won the Oddson Shield.

We wandered into the lunch room where we found members of the Ladies' Aids busily serving the guests with such delicacies as "skyr" "rúllupylsa" on brown bread, vinarterta and other traditional Icelandic dishes, for which everyone displayed a hearty appetite.

After enjoying this repast we moved towards the official centre of the festival, just in time to see people surge forward and the men take off their hats; for the "Fjallkona"—a personification of the spirit of Iceland—was coming into the grounds. It was an impressive sight—the same as it always has been—when she walks slowly through the crowd, dressed in the traditional white gown, green cloak and high lace headdress set on a golden crown. She walked up to the platform, to the throne that had been prepared for her against a picturesque background of Icelandic scenery, and stood there flanked by her attendants as the Winnipeg Scandinavian Male Voice Choir sang O, Canada and Ó Guð vors lands, after which the chairman, Eric Stefansson of Gimli made his introductory remarks. The stately "Fjallkona" then delivered her address to her "children"—her descendants in North America.

Greetings were brought by Hon. Douglas L. Campbell, Premier of Manitoba; Mayor Barney Egilson of

Gimli; Grettur L. Johannson, consul for Iceland and Dr. Richard Beck, president of the Icelandic National League.

Main speakers were Rev. Benjamín Kristjánsson of Akureyri, Iceland, and Stefan Hansen, B.A., F.F.A., member of the Manitoba Royal Commission on Education.

In his toast to Iceland, Mr. Kristjánsson suggested that an interchange of young people between Iceland and Icelandic settlements here would be of great benefit to both. He also stressed the importance of gathering and preserving manuscripts, books and works of art pertaining to Icelandic people and their history. The thought-provoking address of Stefan Hansen is printed elsewhere in this magazine.

Franklin Johnson of Arborg read an ode to Iceland which he had composed for this occasion.

Throughout the program songs in

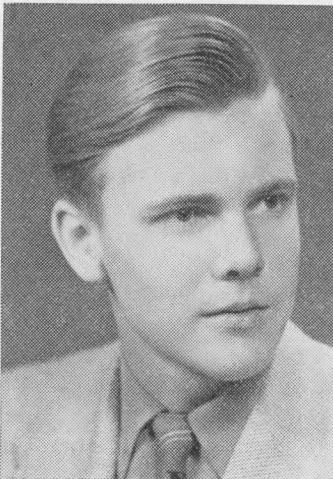
Icelandic, Swedish and English were rendered by the Scandinavian Choir, and the Grenadier Band played several numbers.

The community singing during the twilight hours of Icelandic and other folk songs was led by Rev. Eric H. Sigmar. The quartette from his church in Silver Heights and the quintette from Arborg, composed of the Johnson sisters and a cousin, were featured during the evening festivities which concluded with the usual dance.

Thus came to a close another "Is-lendingadagur" and a very successful one. On this one day of each year—the first Monday in August—the historic town of Gimli becomes a mecca where people of Icelandic origin gather from all over the continent to re-enforce their bonds of kinship and to strengthen their determination to preserve their Icelandic heritage.

Ingibjörg Jónsson

Manitoba Top Maths Students



In a province-wide maths contest sponsored by the Canadian Mathematical Congress, where 750 Manitoba

grade XI students took part, Eric Sigurdson, of Gordon Bell High School won \$80.00, second prize.

He also received the Dr. Gordon Chown award for proficiency in history and science at the annual graduation exercises held by the Gordon Bell High School in June, last.

Eric 17, is the son of Dr. Larus A. and Helen Sigurdson of 1246 Wolseley Ave. Winnipeg.

Other students successful in the Mathematical contest were, Maurice Oleson, Riverton School, who received an award of \$25.00, Ronald John Hurdal, Riverton, and Lillian Bjarnason of Daniel McIntyre Collegiate, Winnipeg, both receiving honorable mention.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE SAGA OF LEIF ERICSSON,

Discoverer of America.

Carl Stearns Clancy,

Pageant Press Inc.

New York, 1956. 223 pp.

In our youth we of Icelandic descent knew of **Leifur Heppni's** (Leif the Lucky's discoverer of America in the year 1000 A.D., almost five hundred years before its re-discovery by Columbus, but the world in general gave sole recognition to the Genoan's epic feat, and regarded as legendary the story of the intrepid viking's voyage to Vinland the Good. Well does the writer remember an incident from his childhood, a Grade VII History lesson taught by a substitute teacher.

Substitute teacher: "Who discovered America?"

Student: "Leif Ericsson".

S. T. (very hesitatingly and doubtfully): "Yes."

S. T.: "What was his nationality?"

Student: "Icelandic"

S. T. (even more hesitatingly): "Yes."

Needless to say, the teacher hastily changed the topic of the lesson.

Since that time, however, historical research has to a large degree confirmed the Icelandic Saga's account of the first landing of Europeans in America, Thorfinnur Karlsefni's founding of the short-lived, ill-fated Icelandic settlement, and the birth of Snorri, the first white child born on this side of the Atlantic. As a result a belated recognition has come to Leif Ericsson as the original discoverer of the New World.

In the words of the poet, Daniel Henderson:

"Spirit of Columbus, tell: —

Ere the western way you took

In your tossing caraval

Found you not an Iceland book?

Was not there the record traced

Of an Hesperidian shore?

Was not your high courage based

On the Norse who went before?

Were not your green laurels won

In the wake of Ericsson?"

English and American novelists have dealt generously with most periods of human history, but largely overlooked the stirring and romantic Viking Period. To fill this gap in historical literature, and to bestow belated laurels upon the brow of Leif Ericsson, **Carl Stearns Clancy**, after ten years of international research, has written **The Saga of Leif Ericsson**

This is a story which can be read with genuine pleasure. Characterized like the Icelandic Sagas by simplicity and directness, it is, indeed, an entertaining book. Furthermore, in the words of one commentator, "Every line every bit of description and background, has a 'been there' flavor."

The author has taken great care in being accurate with respect to historical events, but has been a little careless in the spelling of some names, for example Ingebord instead of Ingibjorg, Kiarten (Kjartan), and Brattalid (Brattahlid), also in his statement that "Leif" is pronounced "life" instead of "lave".

The story begins with the banishment of **Eirikur Rauði** (Eric the Red) from Iceland, and his subsequent settlement in Greenland. It dramatically depicts the struggle between the Norse gods, loyally though hopelessly championed by Red Eric and his son, Leif, on one hand, and on the other

the new, dynamic Christian religion, ruthlessly foisted upon unwilling converts by King Olafur Tryggvason of Norway.

Vividly portrayed is the Viking raid upon the Shetland Islands, the athletic contest at Nidaros, and the final triumph of Leif as at long last he and his companions set foot upon the shores of Vinland the Good.

In classic tradition the book ends with the funeral of Red Eric, the **Ragnarök** of the virile religion of the Norsemen. The beautiful description of its final stages is quoted below:

"Outlined against the blood-red ball of the sun, now beginning to flatten where it seemed to meet the icefloe, the mast and the hull of Eric the Red's floating pyre blazed with a lurid flame. Above it, great spirals of smoke climbed toward golden clouds. As the sun set, everyone saw old Windbiter, with Eric's standard still flying slowly sink beneath the waves.

Yet it seemed to Leif, and to many others who loved the hearty chieftain, that they could see Eric's spirit, freed by the flames, seated astride his horse, and with Hellbore bearing his shield and spear before him, triumphantly mounting the spirals of smoke towards Valhalla.

For several moments no sound was heard but the gentle lapping of the waves. At length Leif broke the silence by quoting a saying of **Hávamál**, 'The Song of the High.'

'Kinsmen die,
Friends die,
We ourselves die;
But the fame shall never die
Of a man who has won it worthily.'

'Amen', said Thorhild warmly, thinking of Red Eric.

Norna, however, smiled proudly up

at the new lord of Greenland. 'And in years to come', she said, 'Men will ever say the same of Leif, Eric's son.'

—A. V.

★

MANITOBA—A HISTORY

By W. L. Morton

University of Toronto Press,
Toronto, 1957
pp. 519

My native province has always seemed to me an unusual and fascinating place, says Professor Morton, in his introduction to **Manitoba: A History**. It is this personal approach, together with a thorough use of sources, an ability to take an overview and to see things in perspective and to discern patterns, a sense of spiritual and cultural values, and a style that is at times dramatic and frequently colorful, that has given us a rewarding work that Manitobans and others will appreciate.

Manitoba: A History is a comprehensive study. Professor Morton traces the history of the Province from the exploration of Captain Button, in Hudson Bay, in 1612, at the time when Jamestown, Virginia, and Quebec had just been founded, down to the Provincial redistribution act of 1955 and the destruction by fire of the properties of the Winnipeg Ballet, in 1954. The list of topics is highly inclusive. Settlement and agriculture constitute the spinal theme, but there is presented the course or unfolding or development of political life; municipal institutions; trade and commerce and industry; transportation, education; church and religious life; racial and class tensions, farm organizations; transformation of rural life; the broadened base of provincial economy; the north country, and social and cultural life. The stress and strain of the grim depression years, the stress and achievement of the war years and the develop-

ment of a more mature community are well portrayed. There is a sympathetic understanding of the chief racial elements in the Province.

Viewed in the stream of history, the achievements of the Norquay, Greenway, Macdonald, Roblin, Norris, Bracken, Garson, and Campbell administrations are seen in perspective. Against their proper background, the efforts and achievements of Premier Norquay to maintain a non-partisan, community government, for the more effective presentation of the Manitoba case at Ottawa, and his effort to bridge the gap between the old and the new settlers and to preserve harmony between the French and the English, can be duly appreciated. Like wise, Greenway's achievement of manhood suffrage and representation by population and his vigorous action in the Manitoba school question stand out in proper relief. So does the work of the Norris Administration in forging a public school system that would perform its proper function in the education and Canadianization of the diverse racial elements in the Province. The vision and energy of the Roblin administration are seen as something to emulate.

The Métis of earlier days are given just recognition, including the discipline which they had achieved in the hunt and in their brushes with the Sioux, and their sense of a "new nation". The work of Riel in his spirited and tenacious fight for the recognition of the West is seen in its relationship to the fight for "provincial rights" carried on by successive Manitoba governments.

There is a sense of life and growth. Agriculture progresses from hand-sown and cradle cut wheat to the binder and the combine, from single crop farming to diversified farming.

Transportation is by canoe, Red River cart, river steamer, railway, motor vehicle, and airplane. Winnipeg grows in one bound from a hamlet to a city serving the North West and well conscious of the outside world.

The response of the Manitoba farmer to the challenge of his natural environment is shown. The answer to short summers and dry years was fall ploughing and summerfallow, while the scientist in his laboratory conducted rust research. The introduction of power machinery was a revolutionary change.

Manitoba is seen in its wider Canadian and international setting. The impact of the Panama Canal on Manitoba economy is recognized; also the influence of the world market.

Professor Morton is forthright in his assessments, including his evaluation of the various provincial administrations, the political life of the province, the educational standard, and cultural and religious life, while these assessments seem generally fair, it is unlikely that they will all pass without challenge. The *Free Press** gives Premier Greenway much greater stature than does Professor Morton.

There is throughout a vision of Manitoba's destiny within the Canadian Confederation. In 1877 Lord Dufferin was the first to speak of this destiny, which he did in eloquent terms. Professor Morton concludes on this note. "Geography and history had produced a Canadian province, a proud, self-conscious, yet integrated community . . . And those who remained and met that challenge, generation on generation, might hope to see in the life of their country, by work of hand and spirit, some stubborn northern flowering." —W. Kristjanson

* "The *Free Press*, October 30, 1908

IN THE NEWS

COMMENDED FOR HIS SERVICE FOR CANADA



Judge W. J. Lindal

"Human Rights Are His Concern", is the title given a lengthy article in the Winnipeg Tribune recently, about Judge Walter J. Lindal.

With special reference made to Judge Lindal's status as an organizer and author, the article evaluates his life's service for Canada—to quote in part: "Through all of Judge Lindal's work, the interest of fellow Canadians, their institutions and government has been uppermost in his mind. Careless drift, he knows, can be checked by unification of Canadian thought."

During the Second World War, Judge Lindal organized the Canada Press Club, an organization of editors and publishers of all ethnic papers in the Greater Winnipeg area. The

objectives were to maintain a strong, democratic point of view and to help to develop a sound Canadian Citizenship—the policy which the Canada Press Club now follows.

The organizational plan is rapidly expanding. A National Ethnic Press Association is being formed, embracing all ethnic papers in Canada except Communist.

Walter Lindal was born in Iceland in 1887 and brought by his parents to Canada the same year. In the course of the article the author says—"From his farm days at Calder, Saskatchewan, through to his career as County Court Judge, W. J. Lindal consolidated every gain he made." —A. E.

★

JUNE 17 CELEBRATION IN VANCOUVER

Íslendingadagurinn, Iceland's National Holiday and the birthday of its national hero, Jón Sigurðsson, was celebrated in Vancouver June 17, with a gathering at the home of John F. Sigurdson, the Icelandic Consul and Mrs. Sigurdson, followed by an evening program in the lower hall of the Lutheran Church under the auspices of Ströndin, the Vancouver chapter of the Icelandic National League.

At the evening program the church choir led in the singing of Icelandic and Canadian melodies under the direction of L. H. Thorlaksson. A welcome was extended by Stefan Eymundson, the president of Ströndin, and a brief address given by Mr. Sigurdson. Principal speaker was Dr. Ragnar Karlsson.

Selections were played by Mrs. Frank Frederickson, pianist, and vocal numbers rendered by Mrs. Anna Arnason McLeod, soprano. Rev. E. S. Brynjólfsson read the beautiful and inspiring poem "Ávarp Fjallkonunnar", the Address of the Maid of the Mountains, by Iceland's Poet Laureate, Davíð Stefánsson.

★

ELECTED PRESIDENT

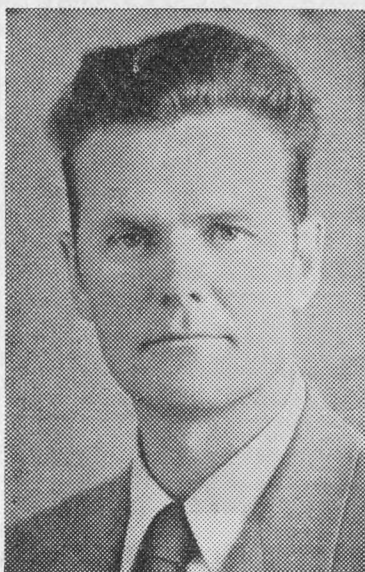


Rev. Eric H. Sigmar of St. James, Man., was elected president of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod of the United Lutheran Church of America at the annual meeting in June at Mountain, North Dakota.

Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands of Winnipeg was elected vice-president, **Rev. O. Skulason** of Mountain secretary and **Oscar Bjorklund** of Winnipeg treasurer.

Others elected to the executive were **Rev. John Fullmer** of Gimli, Man., **Rev. Edward Day**, Selkirk, Man., **Hall-dor Bjarnason** of Winnipeg, **Ray Vopni** of St. James, and **Dr. Frank Scribner** of Gimli.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Helgi Austman has been appointed Assistant Director of the Extension Service of The Manitoba Department of Agriculture. He also holds the position of Agricultural Supervisor for the province.

A graduate in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba, Mr. Austman completed his course for the Master's Degree in Science with distinction at the University of Wisconsin, last spring.

Mr. Austman is the son of **Halldór** and **Anna Austman** of Arborg, Man.

HANDICAPPED PERSONS GET JOBS

A new record total of 24,694 physically handicapped persons were placed in jobs by the National Employment service in 1956, it was announced recently by **Col. J. G. Bisson**, Chief Commissioner of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Of these, 18,096 were men and 6,598 were women.

ROSE BOWL WINNER IN KENORA MUSIC FESTIVAL



Willard Allan, a 19 year old student in the Kenora-Keewatin District High School, Kenora, Ont., was the Rose Bowl winner last spring in the annual Kenora Music Festival. Willard, a baritone, was awarded the Vocal Rose Bowl for Senior Vocal, as the most outstanding competitor in vocal classes, grades 10 or better. In the two previous festivals Willard won high marks from the adjudicators and this time came first. In addition to the Bowl he received a prize of \$100.00 from the Kenora Lions Club.

Willard is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Allan, of 13 Mellick Ave. Kenora. His mother was born in Langruth, Man., a daughter of the late Björn and Sigríður Benson (Benediktsson). Mrs. Allan has kept up her Icelandic and is proud to be able to say that all her three children speak some Icelandic. She says she enjoys the Icelandic Canadian very much. It is to be hoped that next winter Mrs. Allan will be able to visit in Winnipeg and bring Willard with her to sing at some gathering of The Icelandic Canadian Club.

ICELAND SPEEDS UP AVIATION

The two Icelandic Airlines are increasing their capacity greatly. One of them, the Icelandic Airways (Flugfélag Islands) has just bought two British Viscount planes which will be flying between the Continent and Iceland. The other Company, Loftleiðir, is concluding a contract for two new turbo-prop planes, accomodating 88 passengers each, which will be flying daily between Europe and New York.

Although the first aviation company in Iceland was established in 1919, it was not until 1937 that aviation got really on the wings with the founding of the Iceland Airways by a group of people in Akureyri. They bought a Waco seaplane with accomodation for four passengers and hired a Danish-trained pilot to do the flying. By 1945, it had a fleet of five planes.

In 1944, they met with competition when three young Icelanders, who had been pilots in Canada, returned home and founded the company "Loftleiðir", Icelandic Airlines. They started out with one Stinson amphibian plane.

In 1951, Loftleiðir started the trans-Atlantic line from New York over Reykjavik to Europe.

About six years ago they had an unexpected stroke of luck.

A United States Airliner made a forced landing on Vatnajökull, one of the biggest glaciers in the World. After a long and difficult descent everyone on board was brought to safety. The plane, slightly damaged, was lying in an isolated and very inaccessible spot. The line deemed it not worth salvaging, and collected insurance.

The American owners had no objections when some hardy Icelanders offered \$700 for the plane as and where it was. One of them was Alfreð Elias-

son, a pilot, mechanic and general manager of Loftleiðir. Full of confidence he managed to do what no one would believe he could. He got a tractor up on the glacier and towed the stranded plane down to a plateau. There he had an airstrip constructed for the occasion. When that was finished, he got aboard with a comrade and flew the plane to Reykjavik Airport! There he sold the plane at a tremendous profit for \$75,000.

The \$75,000 were used as a down payment for a Skymaster, the first plane for the new trans-Atlantic route of Icelandic Airlines. —A. E.

★

PASTOR SIGMAR TO TEACH AT UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



The Rev. Harald S. Sigmar, for the past two years pastor at Kelso, Wash., has been called for a two-year exchange professorship in the University of Iceland's Theological Department. He will teach New Testament exegesis and related biblical subjects.

Pastor Sigmar was born in Manitoba in 1917. He graduated from the University of North Dakota and Phil-

adelphia Seminary, and holds a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

He was a high school principal and taught English and Icelandic at the University of Washington before going into the ministry. He has served three parishes, Calvary, in Seattle, Gimli, Manitoba and Gloria Dei, Kelso, Wash.

The Sigmars and their four children flew from New York to Reykjavik on Sept. 3. Pastor Sigmar is currently working on a doctor's thesis on religious education in Iceland.

★

HONORED IN YEAR OF SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY

Dr. Richard Beck reached his sixtieth birthday this year and organizations in Canada and the United States have chosen the occasion to pay tribute to him.

On May 28 Dr. and Mrs. Beck were the special guests of honor at the annual banquet of the University Student Council of the University of North Dakota. In June Dr. Beck was honored by the North Dakota Alumnae Association, the Icelandic National League presented him with a fountain pen set and he was a special guest of the Chapter Frón, at a concert held on June 17, the national holiday of Iceland.

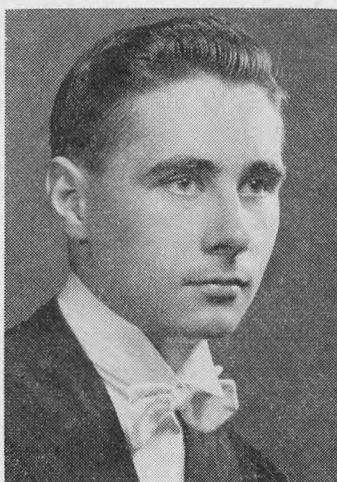
★

MRS B. V. ISFELD RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

At a convention of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations held in the University of Acadia at Wolfville, Nova Scotia, in July, Mrs. Bjorg Violet Isfeld of Winnipeg, was re-elected president for the term of two years.

Mrs. Isfeld is well known for her long career as a music teacher, organist and choir leader.

BARRY ARNASON YOUNGEST GRADUATE IN MEDICINE



Dr. Barry Gilbert Arnason of Winnipeg was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine (with honors) at the annual convocation of the University of Manitoba held May 22, this year. Although he has completed eight years at the university Dr. Arnason is only twenty-three years of age, and has the distinction of being the youngest graduate in the faculty of medicine this year.

In his academic career Dr. Arnason has won many honors including medals for scholarship at Robert H. Smith Jr. High School, and the Dux Medal for highest scholarship at Kelvin High School. In his fourth year in medicine he received the Isbister scholarship and a Jon Stefansson award of an ophthalmoscope.

In February this year at the opening of the new internes' quarters it was his privilege on behalf of the house staffs of the Winnipeg General and the Children's Hospitals to receive the key to the new internes' residence presented by Dr. Charles Burns Sr. on behalf of all former internes.

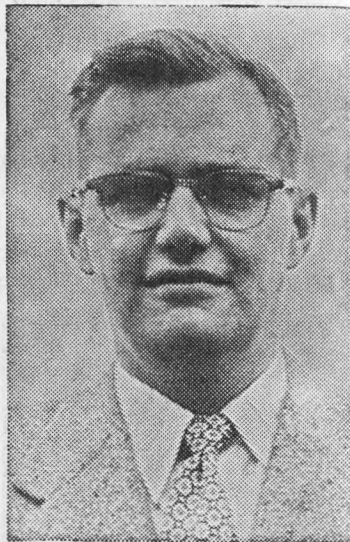
He plans to continue with post-

graduate studies and will spend the next year as a senior interne at the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Dr. Arnason is the son of Dr. and Mrs. I. Gilbert Arnason, Waverley St., Winnipeg.

★

APPOINTED AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST



Agriculture Minister C. L. Shuttleworth recently announced the appointment of **Lúter Burbank Kristjánson** as Agricultural Extension Economist to help rural areas with farm management problems.

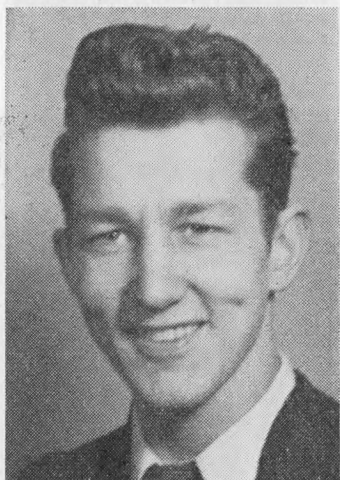
The appointment follows a recommendation contained in a 15-point report made this year by the legislature's Agricultural Committee.

Mr. Kristjánson, born at Gimli, graduated in Agriculture from North Dakota State College, took a Masters' Degree in farm management in Nebraska and this summer, completed studies at the University of Wisconsin for a doctor's degree in Agricultural Economics.

Mr. Kristjánson is the son of Elín and the late Hannes Kristjánson of Gimli, Manitoba.

Graduates, Scholarship and Award Winners

WINNER OF SCHOLARSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE



Magnus Johnson, first year student in Architecture at the University of Manitoba, was awarded the T. Eaton Company Limited Scholarship of \$320 for the highest aggregate marks in the final examination in the year.

In addition to ranking first in his class, Magnus ranked fourth in the entire school of Architecture, on the basis of aggregate marks.

Magnus is the son of Jon G. and Rosa Johnson, 45 Vavasour, in the Silver Heights district of St. James, Manitoba.

★

WINS GOVERNOR GENERAL'S MEDAL

Anna Johnson was awarded the Governor General's Medal at the closing exercises of the Gimli High School in June, last.

Prominent in school activities, Anna was a member of the executive, editor of the year book, took part in drama and was this year's Valedictorian.

Despite the extra-curricular activ-

ities, she has maintained a proud academic record. She was an honor student in Grade X and XI and won an Isbister Scholarship last year.

Anna is the daughter of Steinunn and the late Sveinberg Johnson of Gimli, Manitoba. Her grandparents were Anna and Sigurjon Johannsson of Gimli and Sigurjon and Gudrun (Thorvaldson) Johnson from Odda in Arnes, Manitoba.

★



Franklin George Reynolds, 16, a Grade XI student of Kelvin High School, Winnipeg, was awarded a First Isbister Scholarship of \$155.00. In addition he received a \$25.00 award for the highest standing in his district in the Grade XI Mathematical contest sponsored by the Great West Life Assurance Co. Frank has enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba for the coming year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Franklin Reynolds, 664 Oak St. and the grandson of Mrs. Ingibjörg and the late Jónas J. Thorvardson, 768 Victor St., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Allan Oli Stefanson obtained his degree as a Chartered Accountant at the graduation ceremonies held in the Vancouver Art Gallery in January, last.

Born in 1930, in the district of Argyle in Manitoba, he is the son of Svava and Oli Stefanson, formerly residents of that district, now residing in Vancouver, B. C.

★

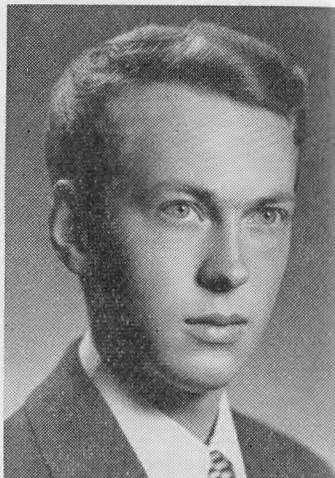
GRADUATES WITH HONORS

At a colorful ceremony of the Yorkton General Hospital School of Nurs-

ing commencement exercises in May, last, **Margaret Elin Markusson** was awarded the Medal for General Proficiency.

Margaret is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gisli Markusson of Bredenbury, Sask.

★

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In the recent Undergraduate awards of the University of Manitoba 1956-57, **Terence Peter Julius Tergesen** won the Canadian Pittsburgh Industrial Limited Scholarship (for best solution of final solo problem in Architectural Design III).

Terence was born at Gimli, Manitoba, the son of Johann and Laura (Solmundson) Tergesen. He received his elementary and high school education at Gimli and will enter his fifth and final year in Architecture at the University of Manitoba this fall.

The Icelandic Canadian wishes him every success in the future.

★

Joanne Wilson, 17, daughter of Flight Lieut. Alexander F. and Johanna Wilson of Wpg., was presented with the Phyllis Graham Memorial Scholarship of \$150.00 by the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, for leadership



Joanne Wilson

and scholastic standing. The presentation was made at the graduation exercises, held by the Gordon Bell High School at Westminster United Church in June, last.

Joanne will enter first year Arts at the University of Manitoba this fall. She will take Icelandic, as an option, for at least two years.

Joanne is the granddaughter of Gudrun and the late Capt. Joseph B. Skaptason, 378 Maryland St. Wpg.

★

AWARD WINNER

A student graduate with a brilliant academic record is **Margaret Lilja Johnson**, 17, of Pine Falls, Manitoba.

Besides being the winner of this year's Governor General's Medal she won an Isbister Scholarship of \$105.00 for high scholastic standing. Her other scholastic awards are: The Pine Falls Oddfellows Citizenship Medal for three consecutive years, grades IX, X, and XI, and the Pine Falls Trades and Labor Council Scholarship for grade XI.

Keenly interested in sports, she is

a figure skater, an ardent curler, and this summer, received her Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross for swimming.

Margaret has played the organ in Sunday School for the past two years. Born at Gimli, Man., Margaret attended the public school there until grade



Margaret Lilja Johnson

IX, then moved with her family to Pine Falls.

She has registered in the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Manitoba but plans to make the Nursing profession her career.

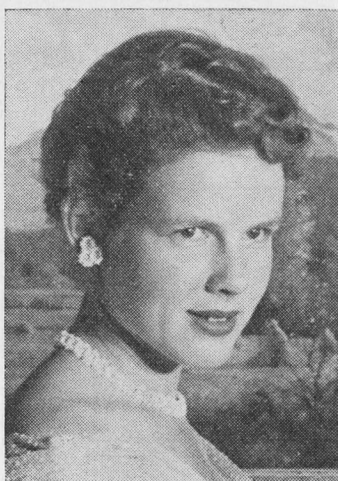
Margaret is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Kjartan I. Johnson of Pine Falls and granddaughter of Hon. and Mrs. William L. Morton and the late Einar and Oddfridur Johnson of Winnipeg.

★

McGILL GRADUATE

Hugh Gisli Robson, son of Hugh and Berghthora Robson of Montreal, Quebec, and grandson of Mr. Gisli Jónsson of Winnipeg, graduated as Bachelor of Science, from the University, Montreal.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Joan Frances Bjerring won an Isbister Scholarship of \$105.00 this year, for her high scholastic standing in Grade XI.

Joan, 17, was born in Montreal and attended her first school there. In 1948, she moved with her parents to Winnipeg. The following years she attended Queenston, Robert H. Smith, and River Heights schools, graduating from Kelvin High School in June, last.

Joan Frances is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kári H. Bjerring and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Bjerring of Winnipeg.

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ICELANDIC GRADUATES OF THE
WINNIPEG NORMAL SCHOOL

JUNE 1957

Jonina Geraldine Bjornsson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Th. G. Bjornsson, Riverton.

Dorothy Kristin Danielson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Leo Danielson, Lundar.

Margaret Eggertson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Eggertson, Siglunes.

Luella Erickson, wife of S. J. Erickson, Lundar.

Clarice Laura Eyolfson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Gunnsteinn Eyolfson, Gimli.

Valerie Baldrun Gislason; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Gislason, Vogar.

Arlene Augusta Johnson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Einar A. Johnson, Riverton.

Christine Stefania Johnson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Johnson, Arborg.

Dolores Carol Magnusson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. G. Magnusson, 647 Broadway, Winnipeg.

Eleanor Dianne Munday, granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Vopni, Winnipeg.

Kristin Margaret Olafson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Olafson, St. Rose du Lac.

Joyce Arlene Saudmoen, Norwegian, mother Icelandic, Hayland.

Vilma Maxine Helga Swanson; Parents: Harry and Bertha (Johnson) Swanson, Riverton.

Daisy Gudrun Vigfusson; Parents: Mr. and Mrs. John Vigfusson, Riverton, Manitoba.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD
WINNERS — U. of M.

Joyce Borgford: T. Eaton Company Bursary in Home Economics (Second year) \$100.00 — Parents: Marino and Ellen (Arngrimson) Borgford, Arborg, Man. (See Icel. Can. Autumn 1954).

Eleanor Johannson: Manitoba Women's Institute Bursary in Home Economics (Second year) \$100. (See Icel. Can. Autumn 1954). — Parents: Thor-kell and Gudrun (Sigvaldason) Johannson, Arborg, Manitoba.

Frank J. Sigurdson: Fraser J. G. Limited Summer Sketching prize \$7.00; Man. Association of Architects Prize—Books \$15.00.

Eric G. Clemens: Donald Spurgeon McLean Memorial Bursary (Architecture 1st year) \$100.00 (See Icel. Can. Summer 1955) Parents: Paul and Mabel (Reykdal) Clemens, Fort Garry, Wpg.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Miss Ingibjorg Bjarnason of Winnipeg was elected president at the 33rd annual convention of the Icelandic Lutheran Women's League of Manitoba held in June at Arborg under the auspices of the Arborg, Vidir and Geysir Ladies' Aids.

Mrs. E. Sigmar of St. James was elected first vice-president, Mrs. Eleanor Gibson of Winnipeg second vice-president, Mrs. Dora Johnson of Selkirk third vice-president, Mrs. Bena Freeman of Winnipeg recording secretary, Mrs. Bertha Hallson of Winnipeg corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Helga Guttormsson of Winnipeg treasurer. Mrs. Elizabeth Bjarnason of Langruth is past president.

The executive includes Mrs. Margaret Bardal of Winnipeg, Mrs. Kristrun Sigurdson of Riverton, Mrs. Dora Breckman of Lundar, Mrs. Asta Erickson of Selkirk, Mrs. Margaret Stephenson of Winnipeg, and Mrs. Irene Keene of Selkirk.

★

Since 1944 Icelanders in Southern California have celebrated annually Iceland's National Day and this year on June 15 some 140 people gathered for the occasion at Senblies Restaurant in Los Angeles where a banquet was held.

A program of entertainment was staged under the chairmanship of Jonas Kristinsson. Guests were welcomed by Sverrir Runolfsson. Mrs. Gudny Thorwaldson read a letter of greetings from Dr. Richard Beck, and Halla Linker read a selection of Icelandic poems. Speakers were Oli Backman and Stanley Olafson who paid warm tribute to Mrs. Thorwaldson,

president of the Icelandic Association for the past five years. She was given a presentation by Sumi Swanson. Icelandic melodies were sung by Mrs. Janet Runolfsson. The program concluded with dancing.

★

Arni G. and Grettir Eggertson, brothers and lifelong residents of Winnipeg, returned to that city in June from a European tour in the course of which they attended the annual meeting of the Icelandic Steamship Lines in Reykjavik, Iceland. Both are members of the board of directors. Arni G. is a Winnipeg barrister and Queen's Counsel and Grettir is an electrical engineer.

★

Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson who has spent much of his life among the Eskimos, says they are a vanishing race.

"They will disappear completely as the north opens up", he said in an interview during a visit to Montreal, Quebec, recently. "The ones who survive white man's diseases will become amalgamated through marriage. Civilization is a juggernaut which can't be stopped."

He is more hopeful about an Arctic animal, the musk ox.

"It should have been domesticated years ago. It needs no special winter shelter or food, its wool is finer than cashmere and brings five times the price of ordinary wool, and its meat tastes like top-grade beef."

Today the explorer lives at Hanover, N. H., where he is curator of an Arctic library. He is reported to be writing his autobiography for the McMillan and Company, book publishers.

The Icelandic Association of Northern California staged its Icelandic celebration at the Marin Town and Country Club in Fairfax, Cal. on June 16.

Dr. K. S. Eymundson, association president, welcomed the large crowd which attended the event, held outdoors, and speakers included Eyjólfur Jónsson, library association head, on behalf of the American government, and Rev. S. O. Thorlakson of San Francisco. During community singing those gathered sang many well known traditional Icelandic songs.

The program following included swimming, tug-o-war and games. Committee in charge included Dr. Eymundson, Sveinn Olafsson, association vice-president, and Margaret Brandson, writer.

The days are not long enough for people who have found rewarding answers to the leisure that comes with age, to a handicap that partially shuts one off from the people, to the desire to do something creative.

Mrs. C. E. Kennedy of Craik, Sask., whose people came from Iceland, actually did not wait for leisure to take up her special interest. She made time for it. She started weaving some eight years ago, for she had always been fascinated by a piece of weaving brought from Iceland and had longed for a loom. Now in her home there are woven table mats, drapes and cushions. Her daughter also learned how to weave and was married in a wedding dress of beautiful soft material which she had woven herself from fine Egyptian cotton and rayon.

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UNION STOCK YARDS

ST. BONIFACE, MAN.

Rev. S. Olafsson, minister of Selkirk Lutheran Church at Selkirk, Man. for the past 17 years, retired in June and with Mrs. Olafsson was guest at a number of social functions held in their honor by various organizations, climaxed by a gathering of the congregation in the Lutheran Church Hall at which they were signally honored. Rev. and Mrs. Olafsson spent the summer as leaders at Sunrise Camp. They will make their home in Winnipeg.

★

At the end of February an agreement was reached between Iceland and the United States providing for scholarships and exchange of students and professors under the Fulbright Act. The agreement was signed in Reykjavik by the Icelandic Minister of Education, Mr. Gylfi Th. Gislason and the American Ambassador to Reykjavik Mr. John J. Muccio.

★

During the latter part of March, Reykjavik, Iceland was visited by the well-known journalist, traveller and lecturer Peter Freuchen. Mr. Freuchen who was accompanied by his wife, had been invited to visit Iceland by the Icelandic Students' League. He delivered several lectures and showed films taken in Greenland. After about a ten-day stay in Reykjavik, Mr. and Mrs. Freuchen returned to New York.

★

Mrs. Thorleif Norland, a member of the staff of the Icelandic government's bureau of public information, left Winnipeg in June to return to Iceland after a visit in the course of a North American tour. Mrs. Norland is the daughter of Petur Jonsson, a former member of the Icelandic parliament.

WINS MEDAL FOR MUSIC

Lilja Lynn Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Olson, St. Vital, Manitoba, has won the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music Silver Medal for the highest mark in this year's Grade 8 music examination for the province of Manitoba.

At the Musical Festival last spring she won the Manitoba Registered Music Teacher's Trophy. (See Icelandic Canadian, Summer 1957). Last year she won the Swedish Trophy.

Lynn's gradparents were the late Björn B. and Gudrun (Solmundson) Olson of Gimli, Manitoba.

RE-ELECT Alderman Ward Two

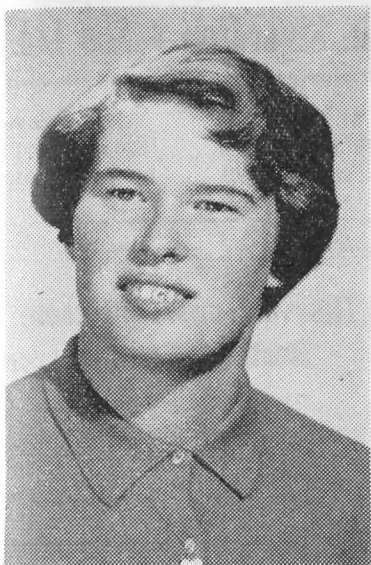


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RECEIVES A FOUR YEAR SCHOLARSHIP



in Iceland and he and Mrs. Luther resided for a number of years in Gimli. He attended night school and after five years graduated in engineering.

★

Norman S. Anderson, son of Mr. Eyolfur Anderson, building contractor of Chicago, Ill. graduated in Accounting last spring from the University of Valparaiso in Indiana and is at present employed with a firm of Chartered Accountants in Chicago.

★

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★

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Mary Joan Luther, a daughter of John and Grace Luther, who now reside in Bakersfield, Cal., on graduating from high school last spring was awarded a four year scholarship at any University she selected. Mary Joan chose the University of California and is enrolling this fall.

John Luther, her father, was born

Laxness Invited to U. S. A

Halldór Kiljan Laxness, author and winner of the 1955 Nobel Prize for Literature, has accepted an invitation from the American-Scandinavian Foundation to visit the United States in October for a period of three weeks or a month.

The visit is made possible by a gift to the Foundation from Thomas E. Brittingham Jr. of Wilmington, Delaware.

Mrs. Laxness, in addition to staying

in New York, will visit Wilmington, the University of Wisconsin, Southern California, where he spent several years in the "Twenties", and Utah, where he hopes to talk to a group of Icelandic Mormons. He is writing a novel based upon the story of their ancestors.

Mr. Laxness has just published a novel entitled "Brekukots annáll". A little over two years ago, he published "Gerpla", another novel.

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